CHARLOTTE
SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

FACULTY
NEWSLETTER

Well we made it through the two weeks of online and the transition back to in person instruction. Thanks for all you do to make this happen. Not an easy task and I know our students appreciate all the effort you've put into this. If you haven't seen the letter from Dick Beekman to the Faculty Council, you can review it here. I've implemented most if not all their recommendations in my class although I did reiterate that videoing my class was to be done only for the purposes of the class and for the benefit of students who were not able to be there due to pandemic related issues.

One reminder that I verbally talked about in our faculty meeting, but please send me an updates CV and/or a Faculty Activity Report for calendar year 2021. I need to write a brief synopsis of your contributions to SDS and the (broadly interpreted) field of data science to your chair so they can include that in your annual review. No need to do anything additional to what you send your chair already (and can be less, aka, just your updated CV). I have been tracking service and teaching in SDS so I believe I have that already.

Lots of good things below and that have been sent out prior (conferences, SDS Research Award, seed grant funding for summer, etc). We also have some summer funding if you are thinking of developing a new course (and your department chair agrees). Let Josh and I know if you are interested in that.

One final note is that we will have our first graduating undergraduates this May! They are currently in their Capstone and we have a prize for the best

project! $5k will be split between the best student projects and the non-profits that contribute data and assistance to the projects. Mary Lou Maher and Tianca Crocker are leading that course. If you see them, ask them about it. The course is called Data Science for Social Good. The prize for this class comes from Thirty Capital, a commercial real estate company here in Charlotte.

Summer 2022 Course Development Opportunity

In line with the goals of the University's General Education Resign that is currently underway, SDS is planning to launch an introductory data analysis course that would fulfill undergraduate students' "Quantitative/Data" general education requirement starting in Fall 2023. We are seeking two faculty members to co-develop the course during summer 2022. Ideally, the team would include one faculty member from CCI and one faculty member from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. There is summer salary funding available for this work – one month of salary for each faculty member. Please reach out to **Angela Berardinelli** (**aberardinelli@uncc.edu**) for more information or to express interest in participating.

Data Science Faculty Research Award

Recognize an individual faculty member (core or affiliated) in the School of Data Science for his/her significant research achievements in the past calendar year.

Deadline for application submission: March 1, 2022,11:59EST

Notification of the award: April 1, 2022 (Fund available for spending between July 1, 2022~June 30, 2023)

NOMINATE HERE

SDS Seed Grants

Given the much smaller number of applications for SDS seed grants for data science in the Spring than in the summer, the research committee of the SDS has decided to skip the Spring funding cycle of the seed grant program and put all the resources for the summer cycle. The call for proposals for summer 2022

SDS seed grants will be released on Feb. 15, 2022 and will be due on March 30.

MORE INFORMATION HERE

Picture a Scientist - Virtual Panel Discussion

The SDS encourages faculty and students to watch the award winning documentary **"*Picture a Scientist*"** in your own time, and then join a virtual Panel Discussion about the film on **Friday, February 11th 2022** from **12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

This discussion will be centered around how women are shaping the STEM field and using their experiences to change the culture of science and provide new perspectives on how to make science more diverse, equitable and open to all.

WATCH THE FILM   **EVENT DETAILS**

Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness Info Session

Professor of Theater **Aly Amidei** will share her recent experiences with the **Public Service Loan Forgiveness program** for faculty and staff looking to have federal student loans forgiven and will help direct attendees to websites and resources to answer their questions about the program.

Please join the conversation **Feb.16,2022 at 5:00pm** via Zoom.

ZOOM LINK

Access to the High Performance Cluster - Spring 2022

If you are planning to use one or both of the HPC educational clusters for course sections during the Spring 2022 term, please use the link below to complete the account creation request **form**. More details can be found **here**.

AWS Academy

AWS Academy is a global program that provides educational institutions and educational nonprofits with access to an AWS-developed and authorized curriculum so they can more easily offer cloud computing courses to their students. By participating in AWS Academy, institutions can help students become proficient and certified on the use of Amazon Web Services (AWS) technology. SDS and UNC Charlotte hold an institutional membership. Faculty interested in being nominated for the academy should reach out to Josh Hertel, jhertel@uncc.edu.

LEARN MORE

IBM Academic Initiative

The IBM Academic Initiative provides professors and students access to the latest technologies in open source and IBM software, hardware, course materials, training, technical support, and other resources.

- IBM Cloud, available cloud resources (Hybrid Cloud, Kubernetes, OpenShift, etc.)
- Data and AI portfolio including Watson Studio, AutoAI, Blockchain, and IOT
- Introduction to freely available Data Science curricula
- Garage Method, Enterprise Design Thinking, and Cognos Analytics

Contact AJ Rindos: email: rindos@us.ibm.com

LEARN MORE

Alteryx SparkED Program

Alteryx is a software solution that allows users to quickly access, manipulate, analyze, and output data. Alteryx builds workflows that become a form of process documentation allowing users to see, collaborate on, support, and enhance the process. Data can be read and written to files, databases, and APIs. Alteryx also comes with functionality that enables predictive analytics and geospatial analysis. SparkED was created to serve educators and students providing free access to teaching tools, and learning resources. The SDS will be scheduling a open training session for faculty and students in early February.

LEARN MORE HERE

RESEARCH UPDATES

National Science Foundation's Dear Colleague Letter: Encouraging Research on Open Knowledge Networks

The **proposal submission** window for Small projects to the OAC (Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure) Core Program is December 1 – December 22, 2021.

Other CISE Core Programs accept proposals anytime. However, for full consideration under this DCL in fiscal year (FY) 2022, proposals should be submitted before **April 15, 2022**.

LEARN MORE

NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics Program

The National Science Foundation currently has a funding opportunity for low-income STEM students. Interested in submitting a proposal? Email **Dongsong Zhang**.

Specifying SDS as an Affiliate Center

When routing a proposal, **please make sure to specify the School of Data Science as an affiliated center in the Niner Research system** in addition to your home department, so that the school can keep track of the proposals submitted and awarded by our faculty. Instructions can be found on the Research tab of our website.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Student
RESOURCES

SDS Student Bootcamps

The SDS has developed a variety of Boot Camps to support new and continuing students. Currently we offer four online/asynchronous training and review modules: Introduction to Python, Statistics for Data Science, Introduction to R, and, as of this spring, Introduction to SAS For Data Science. We are discussing developing a new SQL bootcamp for fall 2023. The bootcamps are free and available to any student enrolled in in a SDS course. Registration for the spring semester SDS Boot Camps is currently open.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Applied Public Health Informatics Fellowship

This is a 2-year program where recent graduates and early career professionals work in a state or local health agency under the guidance of two experienced mentors. Fellows are matched to a host site with demonstrated capacity to provide technical training, research opportunities, and opportunities for experience in the application of public health informatics in a practical setting.

MORE INFORMATION HERE

WiDS Datathon 2022: Using Data Science to Mitigate Climate Change

This year's <u>WiDS Datathon</u>, organized by the WiDS Worldwide team, Harvard University IACS, and the WiDS Datathon Committee, will tackle a key way to mitigate the effects of climate change with a focus on energy efficiency. The WiDS Datathon Committee is partnering with experts from many disciplines at Climate Change AI, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and MIT Critical Data. WiDS Datathon participants will analyze regional differences in building energy efficiency, creating models to predict building energy consumption.

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